

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00267 01 OF 02 282351Z

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ACTION IO-10

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L-02 CPR-01 SS-15 SCA-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 H-02

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LENINGRAD

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TAGS: PFOR US UR CGEN

SUBJ: COMPLAINT CONCERNING NEW YORK POST ARTICLE ON
VIOLATION OF TRAFFIC REGULATIONS BY DIPLOMATS

REF: USUN 232 OF 1/24/75

1. NEW YORK POST ON JANUARY 15TH REPORTED THAT FOREIGN
DIPLOMATS IN NEW YORK CITY RECEIVED OVER 31,000 TRAFFIC
SUMMONSES DURING LAST THREE MONTHS. LEADING PACK WERE
DIPLOMATS FROM SOVIET MISSION WHO AMASSED 3,160 SUMMONSES
FROM OCTOBER 1ST THROUGH END OF 1974.

2. AS RESULT OF ARTICLE, SMUN HAS SENT NOTE VERBALE DATED
JANUARY 21ST TO USUN COMPLAINING ABOUT ALLEGATIONS MADE
AGAINST SOVIET DIPLOMATS AND ABOUT PARKING SITUATION IN
GENERAL. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF SOVIET NOTE IS AS FOLLOWS:

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THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST
REPUBLICS TO THE UNITED NATIONS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS
TO THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND REFERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

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PAGE 02 USUN N 00267 01 OF 02 282351Z

OUR ATTENTION HAS BEEN DRAWN TO AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE NEW YORK POST OF 15 JANUARY 1975 WHICH QUOTED IN A CLEARLY TENDENTIOUS FORM POLICE STATISTICS ABOUT ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF TRAFFIC REGULATIONS IN NEW YORK CITY BY THE STAFF OF FOREIGN MISSIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS. ESPECIALLY PREJUDICED TREATMENT IS GIVEN IN THIS ARTICLE TO THE QUESTION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF TRAFFIC REGULATIONS BY THE STAFF OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE USSR TO THE UNITED NATIONS. IN THIS CONNEXION WE MUST POINT OUT THAT THE ATTEMPTS MADE BY THE EDITORS OF THE NEWSPAPER AND THE AUTHOR OF THE ARTICLE, CLEARLY WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE AUTHORITIES WHICH SUPPLIED THE STATISTICS TO THE NEWSPAPER, TO DENIGRATE ALMOST THE WHOLE OF THE DIPLOMATIC STAFF OF THE MISSIONS OF MEMBER STATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FLAGRANTLY CONTRADICT THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN THE PRACTICE OF CONTEMPORARY CIVILIZED STATES AND IN FACT ARE EVIDENCE OF THE DELIBERATE STIMULATION, ENCOURAGED BY THE AUTHORITIES OF THE HOST COUNTRY, OF HOSTILE FEELINGS TOWARDS THE MISSIONS OF STATES ACCREDITED TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND THEIR STAFF.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE UNITED STATES MISSION IS WELL AWARE THAT IN RECENT YEARS THE NEW YORK CITY AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN CARRYING OUT A SYSTEMATIC CAMPAIGN OF DELIBERATELY TICKETING AUTOMOBILES BELONGING TO THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE USSR TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS STAFF.

THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS IS ALSO WELL AWARE THAT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE USSR HAS REPEATEDLY DRAWN ATTENTION IN ITS NOTES TO NUMEROUS INSTANCES OF DELIBERATE AND QUITE UNJUSTIFIED ACTIONS BY THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE AUTHORITIES IN TICKETING AUTOMOBILES AND TOWING AWAY AUTOMOBILES WITH DIPLOMATIC LICENCE PLATES. THE CYNICISM OF SUCH PREMEDITATED ACTIONS EXCEEDED ALL BOUNDS WHEN, FOR EXAMPLE, ON 12 DECEMBER 1974 A TICKET FOR AN ALLEGED PARKING VIOLATION WAS AFFIXED TO THE AUTOMOBILE OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE USSR TO THE UNITED NATIONS AS IT STOOD IN FRONT OF THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE MISSION AWAITING THE AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS. WE REALLY MUST ASK WHERE IN FACT IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 USUN N 00267 01 OF 02 282351Z

NEW YORK THERE IS A LEGAL PLACE TO PARK THE CARS OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE USSR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, IF IT IS EVEN UNLAWFUL, BY THE INDIVIDUAL DECISION OF A POLICE OFFICER, FOR THEM TO STAND FOR A SHORT TIME IN FRONT OF THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE MISSION. THIS FACT ALONE MAKES IT PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT THE ISSUE OF TICKETS AND THEIR AFFIXATION TO AUTOMOBILES OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE USSR TO THE UNITED NATIONS WITH DIPLOMATIC LICENCE PLATES IS

PART OF A DEFINITE HOSTILE DESIGN: THE DELIBERATE
CREATION OF OBSTACLES TO THE NORMAL WORK OF THE PERMANENT MISSION
AND ITS STAFF.

THE PERMANENT MISSION REPEATEDLY DRAWN ATTENTION TO THE FACT
THAT POLICE CARS AND PRIVATE CARS BELONGING TO AMERICAN
CITIZENS ARE PARKED IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING OF THE PERMANENT
MISSION OF THE USSR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, LEAVING NO ROOM
FOR THE PARKING OF THE MISSION'S AUTOMOBILES. THE PERMANENT
MISSIONS'S REPRESENTATIONS TO THE POLICE AUTHORITIES HAVE
ACHIEVED NOTHING. THIS GENUINELY ILLEGAL PARKING CONTINUES.

THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE USSR HAS REPEATEDLY REQUESTED
THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS TO ARRANGE
FOR THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO MAKE AVAILABLE ADDITIONAL
PARKING SPACES FOR AUTOMOBILES BELONGING TO THE PERMANENT
MISSION OF THE USSR AND ITS STAFF. BUT THESE SPACES HAVE
NOT YET BEEN PROVIDED, DESPITE THE PROMISES MADE BY
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES MISSION. AT THE SAME TIME,
THE PARKING SPACES RESERVED FOR AUTOMOBILES OF THE PERMANENT
MISSIONS OF THE USSR, THE UKRAINIAN SSR AND THE BYELORUSSIAN
SSR ON LEXINGTON AVENUE ARE REGULARLY OCCUPIED BY PRIVATE CARS
BELONGING TO UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND BY POLICE CARS
FOR THE 19TH PRECINCT WHICH IS SITUATED OPPOSITE THESE
MISSIONS. THIS WAS DEMONSTRATED BY A CHECK CARRIED OUT FROM
18 TO 27 DECEMBER 1974 . NOT ONCE, HOWEVER, WERE TICKETS
ISSUED AND AFFIXED TO THE AUTOMOBILES OF THESE VIOLATORS
AND NOT ONE OF THE AUTOMOBILES WAS TOWED AWAY, DESPITE OUR
REPRESENTATIONS TO THE POLICE AUTHORITIES. MOREOVER,
NOT A SINGLE PARKING SPACE HAS BEEN PROVIDED FOR THE DIPLOMATIC
STAFF OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE USSR TO THE UNITED
NATIONS TO PARK THEIR AUTOMOBILES NEAR THE BUILDINGS IN
WHICH THEY LIVE, DESPITE THE REPEATED REPRESENTATIONS WHICH
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PAGE 04 USUN N 00267 01 OF 02 282351Z

THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE USSR TO THE UNITED NATIONS HAS
MADE TO THE UNITED STATES MISSION ON THIS POINT.

THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN MANY INSTANCES WHEN POLICE OFFICERS
ISSUED AND AFFIXED TICKETS ONLY TO THE AUTOMOBILES OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE USSR AND ITS STAFF, AND NOT TO AMERICANS'
CARS PARKED NEARBY.

ALL THESE FACTS ARE KNOWN TO THE UNITED STATES MISSION AND
THEY CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE DELIBERATE
TICKETING OF AUTOMOBILES OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE USSR
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SUBSEQUENT PRESS CAMPAIGN ON
THIS SUBJECT CAN BE INTERPRETED ONLY AS A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT
TO PRESENT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE USSR TO THE UNITED
NATIONS AND ITS STAFF IN A DISTORTED LIGHT, AS IF THEY

WERE VIOLATORS OF THE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS IN NEW YORK, AND
THUS TO AROUSE IN THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY FEELINGS OF
ILL-WILL AND ANTI-SOVIETISM, FEELINGS WHICH ARE ALREADY WIDELY
PROPAGATED AND ENCOURAGED IN NEW YORK BY ZIONIST ELEMENTS
AND THE MASS INFORMATION MEDIA UNDER THEIR CONTROL.

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00267 02 OF 02 282359Z

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ACTION IO-10

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 267

IN THIS CONNEXION WE MUST DRAW ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING
FACT WHICH IS KNOWN TO THE UNITED STATES MISSION. THE UNITED
NATIONS COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY,
AND ALSO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HAVE TAKEN DECISIONS WHICH CONTAIN
APPEALS AND DIRECT REPRESENTATIONS TO THE UNITED STATES
AUTHORITIES TO END THE PRACTICE OF TICKETING AUTOMOBILES
WITH DIPLOMATIC LICENCE PLATES AND NOT TO PERMIT THE POLICE
FORCIBLY TO TOW THESE AUTOMOBILES AWAY FROM THEIR PARKING PLACES.
DESPITE THIS, THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE SO FAR TAKEN NO
POSITIVE ACTION TO NORMALIZE THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO
THE PARKING OF DIPLOMATIC AUTOMOBILES.

THUS, WE HAVE THE CLEARLY UNUSUAL SITUATION IN WHICH THE
AUTHORITIES, INSTEAD OF TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE REPRESENTATIONS
OF UNITED NATIONS ORGANS AND THE LEGITIMATE REQUESTS OF
MISSIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING THE PERMANENT
MISSION OF THE USSR, CAN FIND NOTHING BETTER TO DO THAN TO
PROVIDE THE PRESS WITH OFFICIAL STATISTICS ABOUT THE NUMBER
OF TICKETS AFFIXED TO AUTOMOBILES OF THE MISSION OF MEMBER

STATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND TO GENERATE A CAMPAIGN
ON THIS QUESTION IN THE PRESS AND ON RADIO AND TELEVISION.

IT IS THE PROFOUND CONVICTION OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
USSR THAT THIS CAN SERVE NO USEFUL OR CONSTRUCTIVE PURPOSE
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PAGE 02 USUN N 00267 02 OF 02 282359Z

AND CAN BRING ABOUT ONLY A FURTHER DETERIORATION OF THE PARKING
SITUATION IN NEW YORK. A CITY WHICH IS ALREADY OVER-
SATURATED WITH MOTOR TRANSPORT TO AN EXTRAORDINARY EXTENT.
FURTHERMORE, THIS CAN ENCOURAGE THE CONTINUATION OF ACTS OF
VANDALISM AGAINST AUTOMOBILES BELONGING TO THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE USSR TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS STAFF, A MATTER
WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN REPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE USSR TO THE UNITED NATIONS
EXPRESSES ITS SERIOUS CONCERN AT THE CONTINUING AND, AS
IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE FACTS, CONTINUALLY INTENSIFIED
CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT THE DIPLOMATIC STAFF OF THE MISSIONS
OF STATES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AND IT AGAIN INSISTS
THAT THE APPROPRIATE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES
SHOULD TAKE WHATEVER ACTION IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE NORMAL
FUNCTIONING OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE USSR AND ITS STAFF.

IN THIS CONNEXION THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE USSR AGAIN
URGES THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO
END THE UNLAWFUL PRACTICE OF ISSUING SUMMONSES FOR
AUTOMOBILES BELONGING TO THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE USSR AND
ITS DIPLOMATIC STAFF AND TO PREVENT THE POLICE FROM TOWING AWAY
AUTOMOBILES WITH DIPLOMATIC LICENCE PLATES.

IN ADDITION, THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE USSR AGAIN CONFIRMS
ITS COMMUNICATIONS TO THE UNITED STATES MISSION WHICH CONTAINED
AN URGENT REQUEST TO ASSIST THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
USSR IN OBTAINING THE NECESSARY NUMBER OF PARKING SPACES FOR
CARS WITH DIPLOMATIC LICENCE PLATES, IN PARTICULAR ON THIRD
AVENUE, AND ALSO NEAR THE BUILDINGS IN WHICH THE STAFF
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION LIVE. UNQTE

3. WE ARE TAKING ACTION ON SOVIET CHARGES, WHERE SUCH ACTION IS
WARRANTED. WE ARE ALSO PREPARING SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE
TO SOVIET NOTE. TEXT OF OUR RESPONSE WILL BE CABLED WHEN
SENT.

4. COPIES OF NEW YORK POST ARTICLE HAVE BEEN POUCHED
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW AND AMCONSULATE LENINGRAD.
BENNETT
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PAGE 03 USUN N 00267 02 OF 02 282359Z

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